

Eversource Transmission Line Clearing

Improving Reliability While Minimizing Impacts on Residential and Private Properties

- Reduce the clearing limits from 150' outside of the conductor to 100'; except for trees that have the potential to grow 80' or higher at maturity.
- Visit impacted residential and other impacted abutters' properties to do a cursory inventory to identify any plants that don't need to be removed.
- Divide 150' clearing limit into 3 Zones
 - 0'-50' from the conductor: Leave and/or replant small, native and selected trees with a mature height not to exceed 25' including grasses, shrubs, and other plants beneficial to wildlife. Examples include mountain laurel, milkweed, forbs, grasses, juniper, blueberry, red twig dogwood, viburnums, and rhododendron. Reference UCONN's Plant Data Base of trees 15'-30' in height.
 - 50'-100' from conductor: Leave and/or replant small, native and selected understory trees. Examples include shadblow, dogwood, hawthorn, crab, juniper, yews, arborvitae, cherry, cedar, magnolia, etc. UCONN's Plant Database lists over 85 trees in the 50'- 80' height category. There is a large palette of trees from which to choose.
 - 100'-150' from conductor: Leave or replant larger trees such as sourwood, tupelo, Serbian spruce, Vanderwolf Pine, Kentucky Coffee tree; anything that stays under 80' height at maturity including those from the lists above. Remove and do not replant white pine, Norway spruce, oaks, maples, hickories, sycamores, tulip trees, etc. UConn's Plant Database lists 19 species in the category of 80'+ in height.
 - To the extent possible, eradicate or hold non-native invasive species in check – Japanese Knotweed, Mile-A-Minute Vine, Bittersweet, Autumn Olive, Bayberry, Phragmites, Rosa rugosa, etc. At a minimum, this project should not result in increased pressure from non-native invasive plants and noxious plants like poison ivy. Plan should have follow up, especially where the line abuts maintained properties.
- Use equipment that is adaptable to residential areas. Forestry equipment is not appropriate in all places.
- Remove stumps in maintained easement areas.
- Buffer residential areas with planting of selected species specified above.
- Plant a cover crop, nurse crop, conservation species, in areas of bare ground.

Town Property and Road Crossings within the Right of Way

- Identify all vegetation desired to be removed.
- Meet on site with Town staff/Tree Warden and discuss alternatives.
- Eversource staff to post tree removal notices as directed by Town.
- Remove all stumps in maintained areas. Grind, remove grindings, fill, grade, and seed or plant as directed.
- On low maintenance and natural areas, grade and fill all ruts, and seed as directed.
- Follow tree clearing guidelines within 150' clearing limits.
- Limit work in school areas to summer and vacation break periods to the extent possible. Coordinate with School Safety Officer before bringing equipment on grounds.
- Conduct an Arbor Day Event to include community/school education packet – right tree, right place; using energy corridors to support the environment, storm impacts and "resiliency" goals.